This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In an apparatus including a magnesium alloy vessel substantially free of aluminum and zinc, said magnesium alloy vessel having a hollow interior cavity at least partially covered by a wick structure, and containing a working fluid, the improvement comprising: forming ~~the formation of~~ a stable, protective layer on the inside wall of said magnesium alloy [[the]] vessel, said protective layer establishing compatibility with said [[the]] working fluid and preventing base metal corrosion by said [[the]] working fluid at an interface between said wick structure and said base metal, wherein said magnesium alloy vessel comprises magnesium in combination with an alloyed and/or dispersion strengthening, gettering metal.

2. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said stable protective layer is an oxide or nitride protective layer.

3. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said vessel is a heat pipe and/or a pumped-loop system.

4. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said gettering metal comprises from about 0.1 - 5 wt % of zirconium.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said [[the]] working fluid is ammonia.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said [[the]] working fluid is water.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said [[the]] gettering metal is selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium, hafnium and yttrium.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said [[the]] gettering metal comprises about 0.6 wt % zirconium alloy.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) In an apparatus including a magnesium alloy vessel free of aluminum and zinc, said magnesium alloy vessel having a hollow interior cavity at least partially covered by a wick structure, and containing a working fluid, the improvement comprising: forming a stable, protective layer on the inside wall of said magnesium alloy vessel, said protective layer establishing compatibility with

said working fluid and preventing base metal corrosion by said working fluid at an interface between said wick structure and said base metal, wherein said magnesium alloy vessel comprises magnesium in combination with an alloyed and/or dispersion strengthening, gettering metal.

11. (New) In an apparatus including a magnesium alloy vessel having less than 1% by weight aluminum and zinc, said magnesium alloy vessel having a hollow interior cavity at least partially covered by a wick structure, and containing a working fluid, the improvement comprising: forming a stable, protective layer on the inside wall of said magnesium alloy vessel, said protective layer establishing compatibility with said working fluid and preventing base metal corrosion by said working fluid at an interface between said wick structure and said base metal, wherein said magnesium alloy vessel comprises magnesium in combination with an alloyed and/or dispersion strengthening, gettering metal.

12. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said gettering metal is selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium, hafnium and yttrium.

13. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said gettering metal comprises about 0.6 wt % zirconium alloy.

14. (New) In an apparatus including a magnesium alloy vessel having less than 1% by weight aluminum and zinc, said magnesium alloy vessel having a hollow interior cavity at least partially covered by a wick structure, and containing a working fluid, the improvement comprising: forming a stable, protective layer on the inside wall of said magnesium alloy vessel, said protective layer establishing compatibility with said working fluid and preventing base metal corrosion by said working fluid at an interface between said wick structure and said base metal, wherein said magnesium alloy vessel comprises magnesium in combination with less than 1% by weight of an alloyed and/or dispersion strengthening, gettering metal.

15. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 14 wherein said gettering metal is selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium, hafnium and yttrium.

16. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 14 wherein said gettering metal comprises about 0.6 wt % zirconium alloy.